



H.R. 2942: The HEALTH for Women Veterans Act

Background:

There are approximately 1.8 million women veterans in the United States and women currently make up 16.2 percent of the active duty force and 19 percent of the National Guard and Reserve force. Since 2001, the number of women enrolled in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) healthcare system has tripled. Over the last five years alone, women have accounted for more than 30 percent of the increase in veterans served by VA. While VA has made significant strides to address the needs of women in that time, many servicewomen and women veterans continue to lack awareness of the many services available to them through VA. To address this, VA and the Air Force partnered to create a Women's Health Transition Training Pilot to educate servicewomen transitioning out of the military about the services available in VA. Initial feedback from those who have attended the pilot has been overwhelmingly positive.

The HEALTH for Women Veterans Act would extend the Women's Health Transition Training Pilot through fiscal year 2020. This would ensure that servicewomen continue to benefit from information about the care they may be eligible to receive from VA and how to access that care as they transition into civilian life. The bill would also require VA and the Department of Defense (DOD) to report to Congress about the pilot.

The Message:

- Too many servicewomen and women veterans are unaware of the many services and supports afforded to them through their service.
- Women veterans must be empowered to make informed decisions about their health care as civilians.
- The HEALTH for Women Veterans Act would extend a successful pilot program that educates our brave servicewomen about the care available to them in VA.